

REMARKS

Claims 17-18 are pending in the present application. New claims 17 and 18 were added in this response. Claims 9-16 have been cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments.

Previously submitted claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112(2) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Also, claims 9-10 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In light of the cancellation of claims 9-16 and newly added claims 17 and 18, Applicants submit that the objectionable matter has been addressed. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 was rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In light of the present amendment to claim 8, Applicant submits the rejection has been overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly requested.

Claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Galloway et al.* (US Patent 5,940,492). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Specifically, *Galloway* does not teach or disclose the feature "evaluating, based on said at least one administrative function, at least one content value of the informational element contained in the signaling message; and altering, based on said at least one administrative function, at least one content value of the informational element contained in the at least one signaling message, wherein the content value defines an operational characteristic of the informational element" as recited in claim 17 and similarly recited in claim 18.

The present claims recite a dynamic expandability of the connection control ("call control") of an exchange (VST) by using administrative functions (also described as "manipulator functions" in the specification) which, with the assistance of an administration component, can be inserted at specific locations (points in call) of the APS. The administrative component becomes part of the connection control during the operation of an exchange. Accordingly, a generic information element (GIE) having an operational characteristic (i.e., function) is determined by the dynamic insertion of the administrative functions into the APS

(see page 4, lines 13 to 18 of the present specification). On the basis of these features, it is possible that new services or performance features can be incorporated into an exchange of a communication network, by a network operator (administrator), without changing the APS.

In contrast, *Galloway* discloses SCCP messaging, where each SCCP-level message is encapsulated in the SIF field of an MSU as is illustrated in FIG. 3. The SCCP message is disclosed as comprising a message type field 45 and a number of parameters organized into three parts 46, 47, 48 according to type. Mandatory parameters of fixed length are placed in the mandatory fixed part 46. Mandatory parameters of variable length are placed in the variable mandatory part 47. Optional parameters are placed in the optional part 48 (col. 3, lines 57-67). *Galloway* further teaches that the SCCP messages include additional addressing information in the form of a global title, also referred to as a Called Party parameter. A global title as defined in *Galloway* identifies a destination globally within the telecommunications system. This parameter is included in Connection Request SCCP messages and all connectionless SCCP messages (col. 4, lines 1-20). The Called Party Number parameter 50 contains addressing information additional to that contained in the routing label 43. Parameter 50 comprises an address portion 53 including one or more address elements, and an address indicator portion 54 with information about the contents of the address portion 53. The address elements that may be included in the address portion 53 are a signaling point code 55 indicating the final destination signalling point of the message, a subsystem number 56 indicating the destination functional entity for the message at the destination signaling point, and a global title 57 generally in the form of a telephone number compliant with a particular numbering plan (col. 4, lines 22-53).

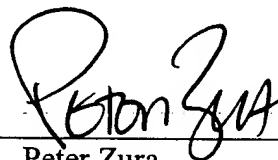
Accordingly, *Galloway* utilizes the above configuration to route SCCP messages in the signaling system when the code of the final destination is not known (col. 4, line 54 – col. 5, line 20). As such, *Galloway* does not rely on an administrative function in evaluating and altering the signaling message, but instead uses routing table 43 in conjunction with the global title as a predetermined basis to routing the messages. Furthermore, *Galloway* fails to teach a content value that is defined an operational characteristic of the informational element, as claimed in the present application. The variable mandatory part 47 is simply a portion of the SCCP informational field that determines routing of a message – the operational characteristic is not affected at all by the values present in this field..

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submit that claims 17-18 are allowable and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is improper and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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